

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Community Planning and Development  
California State Office**

# **Consolidated Planning Focus Group Summary Report**

**Tuesday, February 19, 2002**

**from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**HUD Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center,  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA**

**Prepared on March 8, 2002  
In partnership with ICF Consulting**

## **Executive Summary**

On Tuesday, February 19, 2002, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) California State Office convened a focus group with 16 grantees. The purpose of the Focus Group was to obtain input from grantees on ways to improve and streamline the Consolidated Plan.

This report summarizes the participants' comments and suggestions. The four key main points that the participants made are the following:

1. Overwhelmingly, participants felt that the Consolidated Plan is really a HUD application and not a planning document. Therefore, the focus should be on reducing and simplifying the document.
2. Participants emphasized: if HUD is not going to use the information, don't ask for it.
3. The Con Plan, Action Plan and CAPER should be seamless and should include basic information about the community, how it plans to spend HUD funds, and its goals and accomplishments.
4. Participants wanted to steer away from benchmarking because of the difficulty of predicting and tracking numeric goals. However, most participants were not opposed to developing simple and sound methods of reporting goals and accomplishments.

Additional comments and suggestions from participants are summarized in this report.